

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1979

H. P. 1918

Office of the Clerk of the House

The Committee on Judiciary suggested. Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Henderson of Bangor

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-EIGHT

**AN ACT to Clarify the Statute Relating to Attorneys so that Nonattorneys may Appear in
Small Claims Court on Behalf of Corporations.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

4 MRSA § 807, 3rd sentence, is amended to read:

This section shall not be construed to apply to practice before any Federal Court by any person admitted to practice therein; nor to a person pleading or managing his own cause in court; **nor to a corporation, partnership, association or government entity appearing by means of an authorized representative, not an attorney, in any action cognizable as a small claim under Title 14, section 7451.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Legislature, in 1977, amended Title 14 to permit nonattorneys to appear in small claims court on behalf of corporations. However, there is a statute in Title 4 of the Maine Revised Statutes which states that anyone appearing in court on behalf of any cause except his own is in violation of the law. This statute was not changed in 1977, and thus this bill now amends that statute to show that a nonattorney may legally appear in small claims court on behalf of a corporation without violating the law.